

## August 2009 Webcast for District Education Technology Leaders from the Upper Elementary School in Gallatin County

Below is a complete written summary and digital copy (audio and video) of the August 2009 webcast for District CIOs and education technology leaders. Each month we go to a different district. This month the webcast was conducted on August 17th, 2009 at the Upper Elementary School in Gallatin County.

You can get to both the Video and Audio links for this webcast through our webpage at:

<http://www.education.ky.gov/KDE/Administrative+Resources/Technology/Webcasts/Webcast+for+District+Technology+Leaders.htm>

Video and audio: [mms://video1.education.ky.gov/DistLeader\\_Gallatin-08-2009-video](mms://video1.education.ky.gov/DistLeader_Gallatin-08-2009-video)

Audio only: [mms://video1.education.ky.gov/DistLeader\\_Gallatin-08-2009-audio](mms://video1.education.ky.gov/DistLeader_Gallatin-08-2009-audio)

**The broadcast is approximately 1 hour and 35 minutes.** The numbers in **red** below indicate the time stamp for discussion on the audio and video segment of the broadcast.

### Summary

#### **00:00** Introductions and Gallatin County Schools information:

From KDE we have: **Phil Coleman**, **Mike Leadingham**, as well as **Charlotte Chowning** – **KETS Engineer for Region 4**. We have **Tim Fields** and **Andrew Liaupsin**, from KDE is participating from behind the camera. We also have **Bob Tarvin** of the **School Facilities Construction Commission** from Frankfort.

**David Couch** gave a brief history (more details from Wikipedia below) and had **Gallatin Superintendant – Dorothy Perkins** introduce those participating from **Gallatin County**.

These include: **District CIO - Brad Gray**, **Gallatin County Board of Education Chair - Joanie Rogers**, Technology teachers – **Michelle Sullivan**, **Caroline Benson**, and **Alicia Gray**. Also in attendance were a number of students from Gallatin County.

**The official website for the school district is:** <http://www.gallatin.k12.ky.us/>

The **Wikipedia** site is the source of the following information regarding **Gallatin County** and can be viewed at: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallatin\\_County\\_Kentucky](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gallatin_County_Kentucky)

**Gallatin County** is the smallest county in Kentucky. It was formed in 1799. As of 2000, the population was 7,870. Its county seat is Warsaw. The county is named for Albert

Gallatin a Swiss native, who became a financier, prominent American Statesman and served as Secretary of the Treasury of President Thomas Jefferson.

**Gallatin County today: Superintendant – Dorothy Perkins** stated that the district currently has approximately 1,600 students in three schools. They are a predominantly rural bedroom community for the Cincinnati area. They have made steady and consistent progress in raising their CATS scores over the past five years. They believe that the people in the district are making the critical difference in making that progress possible. They also believe that their students are just as capable and talented as anyone else in the state. It is the role of the adults to provide the nurturing, caring and leadership the students need in order to succeed.

Technology has helped to give additional teaching and learning tools to students and teachers in the district. Leadership from the board to teachers in the classroom has supported the program they have put in place to help their students excel. This district adopted the **Voluntary Partnership Team (VPAT)** program to match up professional mentors and those who can use them in the district from board members to teachers.

The **added value of technology** is it allows you to bring the resources the students need to their level. It helps to level the playing field in that our children not only compete with each other in the district, but on a global level as well. The technology gives their students the tools to succeed.

The local board has been very supportive of bringing technology to the district. They always ask: **How will this resource be utilized? How much will it cost? How and when will the results be reported and will it improve student achievement?**

Gallatin's technology plan currently includes:

- Teacher laptop initiative
- District –wide Intelligent classrooms
- Cyber bully conferences and training
- Technology Tuesdays/technology academy which is a professional development (PD) activity they have twice a month for a 1 hour period of time based upon an annual survey of what teachers want to be trained on.
- The district provides 36 technology based sessions of PD for teachers in the district as well in the summer.

David asked the teachers participating in this webcast their opinions on what technology makes the biggest impact in the education/learning process?

Making learning **fun** for the students – teachers are competing with students personal technology in the homes in learning.

Teachers believe that students want **active learning** – to be involved as well as immediate response as they learn. The district's increasing use of the **Turning Point**

**response systems give students immediate feedback** – they are just not replacing blackboards, but adding something more that students can use and draw their interest.

Being able to **measure students as they are learning their lessons** during the learning process as opposed to the end of the process.

Charlotte wanted to remind the audience that the local district made a conscious decision a few years ago to put in the monies and personnel efforts needed to make these changes and they have made tremendous amounts of progress over the past five years that have benefited the students of Gallatin County.

**16:55 Budget/Personnel issues:** There is still \$132 million in unmet need for the districts. The unmet need includes those activities such as district operations, replacement of old equipment and any new technology implementation that district want to do. The expenditure plan has come up with about \$100 million in various federal/state/and local monies. That still leaves about \$30 million between what can be found and what is left unfunded.

**The following links contain the staff notes that were presented on 5 August to the Kentucky Board of Education (KBE) on the FY10 KETS unmet need and the FY10 KETS expenditure plan:**

1. [Kentucky Education Technology System \(KETS\)Unmet Need for LEAs](#)
2. [FY 2010 Kentucky Education Technology System\(KETS\) Expenditure Plan](#)

**19:12 Broadband Stimulus Funds:** There are 5-10% underserved areas in the state that do not have high speed broadband services. These are areas that are eligible to compete to get broadband to those areas. 1<sup>st</sup> phase has closed – 12-15 districts expressed an interest. Many service providers were not ready for the short-notice to have the proper paperwork done for phase 1 and will probably participate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> waves for the program.

**21:56 EETT – ARRA Monies:** We anticipate the monies will be given out with a total \$9.5 million – ½ in formula funds and ½ in a competitive process. For the formula funds we will need an addendum in the district technology plans on how they will spend and measure those results for those funds. There will be a higher expectation from the feds for districts to report on the use of these monies. There will be no major changes for the competitive funds. September 4<sup>th</sup> is the date we now expect to post the Requests for Applications (RFA) for districts to apply and it will take a couple of months to get the requests back in, scored, and awarded to districts. We hope to have awards out by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**25:10 KET Expenditure Plan** – expected Districts Offers of Assistance 1<sup>st</sup> offer will be \$15.00 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> offer will be \$9.00 per student. Districts will need to match and this will still leave approximately \$30 million of unmet need.

**26:11 Kentucky state budget** – last month David discussed the possibility that the department will have to cut their budget 3-4% and this might have affected the KDE contribution to shared services such as Kentucky Virtual Library (KVL) and the offers of assistance. As of this time the KVL and KETS offers will not be affected by the 4% cut.

**27:44 KDE leadership updates.** The new commissioner Dr. Terry Holliday is in place and is visiting districts to introduce him better acquaint himself to Kentucky.

**28:30 The 2009 KETS Partnership award (aka) Stilwell Award goes to Bob Tarvin:** The Stilwell award is given out by the department to the individual, group, or vendor that goes above and beyond the normal effort or call of duty behind the scenes in regards to helping the state's education technology. **This year's award goes to Bob Tarvin of the School Facilities Construction Commission.** Bob has been an outstanding partner from the beginning of KERA and KETS who has helped by working with all groups to further the overall plan for moving Kentucky schools forward using technology.

**Bob gave a brief overview of the School Facilities Construction Commission (SFCC)** and its role in education technology and school construction.

<http://finance.ky.gov/ourcabinet/attached+agencies/sfcc.htm>

It is this office that administers the **KETS Offers of Assistance** that districts receive from the Department.

**47:22 FY 10 Infinite Campus – Kentucky Student Information System (IC-KSIS)** payments were due by August 1st – total due \$5.6 million and it has been paid. 173 of 174 districts have made the payment and one district will be paying from their KETS Offer of Assistance. We have encouraged districts to make this payment so it would not have to be made from the Offers of Assistance – this makes sure that district would get that offer and then be matched by the district with local funds.

**49:24 Swine Flu** recommendations/guidelines from the department has been sent out to districts.

Districts need to be proactive in providing preventive information on how to best not get the flu, providing monitoring, and using technology to help students keep learning if there was any extended interruption. There will be a **Pandemic Preparation summit in Frankfort on September 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

**51:17 SB1 – Accountability** and what districts need to do to react to the changes in testing and assessment. The department is in the process of developing those required standards and how do we assess those changes statewide.

**52:30 The newest version of the KDE Schools Directory** is being completed – let Lisa Gross know if there are any changes in senior district personnel so it can be included.

**52:58 Recent studies have shown that those who do texting** while they drive are up to 4 times more impaired in their ability to drive as much as someone who is drunk driving. Districts need to be aware of this and take appropriate action to educate their students and staff.

**57:52 Changes to the Technology Planning template:** There will be changes/additions to this year's plan. These will include: technology literacy, integration of technology into the curriculum of instruction, goals and objectives of the NCLB-title 2D program, we are modifying some of the charts to make it easier and more consistent, and some changes to better define focus on the effective use of technology to help in communication with parents .

Again a constant theme now is the need and expectation of including evaluation measurements for these programs.

The **Technology Readiness Survey will again be submitted online**. Districts need to be aware of a couple of things. KDE will begin to require more information on access at home for both teachers and students, 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade technology literacy levels, personnel and their levels of technology literacy, and other qualifying information now being required by the federal government. It will be a growing and learning process for all of us involved. Feel free to send any questions and concerns to Mike Leadingham.

More details to follow.

**1:10:05 District Operations Guide (DOG doc)** is being updated so districts can better use the updated Active Directory and Exchange services being put in place.

**1:10:55** KDE is in the process of allowing **Podcast and Real Simple Syndication or RSS subscription services** over the next few weeks.

**1:12:36 Internet Explorer 8** will be made available on September 17<sup>th</sup> via the WSUS system as a special deployment with districts having the control of if and when they send it out to their users. By doing this the IE7 software will no longer be in special deployment and will be pushed to users automatically. Districts need to be ready for this.

**1:15:09 Active Directory (AD) – Exchange/Live@edu upgrades**. We have over 80 districts that have upgraded to the new version of AD. The upgrade to AD is needed in

order to upgrade the email Exchange upgrade later this fall. The target to be completed with both these projects is still the end of October. More information to follow.

**1:16:55 update on ConnectKentucky.** As part of ARRA there is the opportunity for districts to upgrade any remaining schools local areas that currently do not have broadband connectivity to partner with others to provide broadband access and reduced priced computers.

**1:18:42 MUNIS system upgrades.** We are planning on moving district file servers, operating systems, and database engine from the current platform to a Microsoft based system/platform. We will select a couple of districts to pilot and then announce a program to migrate to the new platform over a two year window. The vendor, Tyler is moving towards the MS platform as more of their new customers are using the Microsoft platform and will be able to offer increased functionality with the new platform.

**1:22:00 Nortel bankruptcy update.** Last month we announced that there was a primary bidder for the Nortel assets - Avaya. On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the Bankruptcy court will auction off that portion of the former Nortel assets. We are getting weekly updates from Nortel. We are keeping an eye on it.

**1:24:12 Workstation and network/voice network RFI.** KDE recently requested a request for vendors to see if it would be possible to combine the separate network and voice network contracts. The workstation contract will be posted soon from the Finance Cabinet. The currently contract has expired and we have been granted an extension to the end of the year.

There are updates to the **Microsoft Academic Select contract** coming soon. We will make sure that the details are distributed soon.

**The Architectural Standards Committee (ASC) and KDE leadership** have approved an **Internet Small Computer System Interface (iSCSI)** configuration standard. This is part of some continuing efforts on our side to provide some formal guidance for configuration standards from KDE.

### **Questions:**

#### **45:55 Question:**

**From:** Pack, Jimmy  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 10:05 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Phil - KETS Operations and Services  
**Subject:** Question for webcast

Question for Bob:

This may not be the best wording, but I think he will understand the question.

Can the funds be used for maintenance of wiring, wiring closets, etc., through the capital outlay waiver of maintenance?

Thanks

Jimmy Pack  
CIO  
Franklin County

**And a related question:**

**From:** Dawson, Kimberly (Eminence)  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 11:38 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Phil - KETS Operations and Services  
**Subject:** question

Hi Phil,

We are replacing all of our switches in our server room and plan on using the ARRA funds. But we don't have enough to do the necessary wiring we need for some critical issues we have in our district. So do I understand correctly from the webcast that we could use capital outlay for the wiring we need? It would be cabling for adding network drops and wireless access points.

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*National Board Certified Teacher*  
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**Answer from Bob Tarvin:** Usually in building construction those funds can only be used for those things that are considered as "fixed" equipment that are made a part of the building. Equipment that has a short lifespan such as the equipment in the wiring closet could not be paid for by these funds. However, the legislature has given districts more flexibility in using remaining or leftover funds for technology related items such as wiring.

**1:08:49 Question:**

**From:** Forsythe, Robert-DTC  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 12:09 PM  
**To:** Coleman, Phil - KETS Operations and Services  
**Subject:** EEDD funds

If we get these funds in November 2009 – when will the deadline be to have them encumbered?



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**Answer from Mike Leadingham:** There will be a 2 year window to September 2011 to encumber those funds.

**1:27:39 Question:**

**From:** Forsythe, Robert-DTC  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 11:10 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Phil - KETS Operations and Services  
**Subject:** NETS-A

Is the department going to adopt the recent ISTE NETS-A as the standards for our Administrators?

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**Answer from Charlotte Chowning:** The Education Profession Standards Board (EPSB) does have the ISLIC standards in place and allows district to add standards for themselves.

**1:28:25 Question:**

**From:** Sweasy, Bryan - CIO  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 11:22 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Phil - KETS Operations and Services  
**Subject:** Webcast: Do we have an estimated price for new MUNIS server

For budgeting purposes. Doesn't have to be exact

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Please consider the environment before printing this message.

**Answer from Mike Leadingham:** The estimated price will be from \$5000 to \$10000 to replace the equipment, operating system, database engine, and to provide some training on the new systems (including additional functionality for districts). It will not include the cost of data conversion which we are discussing with Tyler about at this time.

**1:31:05 Question:**

**From:** Pack, Jimmy  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 11:23 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Phil - KETS Operations and Services  
**Subject:** OET webcast question

- 1 – when should I start budgeting for a new server(s) – which year's budget?
- 2 – will virtual servers be supported for this?

**Answer from Mike Leadingham:** This will be a 2 year window to get done. Some districts will need to complete at the beginning and some will complete the changeover at the end.

**1:33:26 Question:**

**From:** Cummins, Jerome  
**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2009 11:27 AM  
**To:** Coleman, Phil - KETS Operations and Services  
**Subject:** Nortel Bankruptcy

Do you have any recommendations on any Nortel maintenance agreements going forward? I have a big maintenance contract coming up in September.

[Jerome.Cummins@Casey.KySchools.US](mailto:Jerome.Cummins@Casey.KySchools.US)  
p 606-787-7689

**Answer from Phil Coleman:** KDE recommends that you continue with your normal maintenance plans.

**Finish** – please join us next month as we visit McKee Elementary School in Jackson County and one of the subjects we will talk about Project CAFÉ (Computers are for Everyone), the district's Kentucky DataSeam Initiative, District Technology Academy, KISTA, Implementation of Smart Classrooms, and this district being a Platinum STLP District (since 2006).